



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: July 18, 2003

To: HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subject: QUARTERLY UPDATE ON PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

Recommendation

Receive and file.

Previous Directives

None

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by:

Ken Dahl, Interim Commissioner of Health & Family Support

Presenters in Committee: Becky McIntosh
Pam Blixt, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

☒ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

Background/Supporting Information Attached

The Department is requesting to provide a quarterly update on planning activities under our federal Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant.

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

Department of Health & Family Support (MDHFS)

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE: SECOND QUARTER 2003

Health & Family Support has received federal bioterrorism and emergency preparedness funding from the Centers for Disease Control for the planning, implementing, and testing of public health emergency preparedness systems for the City of Minneapolis. The City contracts with Hennepin County for all disease prevention and control services, and the joint emergency preparedness planning is an extension of this contractual relationship. Minneapolis and Hennepin are also participating in regional planning with the public health departments of the other six metro counties. The overall goal of public health planning, as well as current federal requirements, is that local public health be prepared to vaccinate or provide antibiotics to 100% of its population within 3-4 days of a public health event.

Key Accomplishments in the second quarter:

1. A joint Minneapolis/Hennepin County public health emergency preparedness advisory committee has been developed and had its first meeting. Its purpose is to promote coordinated planning for and response to public health emergencies by Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis in conjunction with public and private systems. Representatives from the City include: Deputy Chief Dick Turner, Emergency Management; Lt. Scott Gerlicher, Police Department/Emergency Preparedness; Bill Radosevich, Environmental Services; and, Becky McIntosh, MDHFS.
2. Planning is in progress to assist vulnerable and multicultural populations in the event of a health care emergency on a regional basis. The group is comprised of public health, emergency management, and representatives from affected communities or groups, and has been meeting regularly under the leadership of MDHFS. There are two sub-groups:
 - **Emergency and Community Health Outreach** workgroup is developing means and methods for delivery of preparedness information, public warnings of incidents, and health advisories when an incident has occurred, and is being chaired by St. Paul Ramsey Public Health. Current plans involve the development of a state-wide program in various languages and formats using public television.
 - **Emergency Preparedness Planning for Community Organizations** workgroup is focusing on ensuring adequate capacity in the response and recovery phases of emergencies for multicultural and vulnerable populations. Current plans involve using two AmeriCorps* VISTA volunteers assigned to MDHFS beginning this fall to provide training and technical assistance to community organizations.
3. MDHFS staff have been working at a regional level with other local public health to reduce duplication of efforts, achieve economies of scale, and share resources in the following planning efforts:
 - Mass Clinics
 - Workforce development
 - Patient care coordination
 - Chemical and radiological response preparedness
 - Mental Health
 - Exercise planning
 - Communication and Technology
 - Training
 - Metro-wide preparedness assessment
4. As a first step in determining the role (if any) of public health in a chemical incident, MDHFS organized training for metro region public health staff on basic response to a hazardous materials incident. The program, lead by Assistant Chief Ulie Seal, was taped and has been provided to regional emergency preparedness officials for use in training.
5. Under a separate federal grant, the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County are working in partnership with the Hennepin County Medical Center to develop a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC is part of the Citizen Corps, and its purpose is to identify and train volunteer health professionals who would be activated

during public health emergencies to augment response capacity. The pilot is being developed to be adaptable throughout the metro region and possibly state-wide.

6. Under Phase I of the Smallpox vaccination program for public health and hospital personnel, 315 persons were vaccinated in Hennepin County (1,476 state-wide, and 37, 875 nationally). Selected City staff were trained to be vaccinators, screeners, educators, and clinic support staff. No smallpox vaccinations are presently taking place in the state, and efforts are now being focused on post-event response planning. It is anticipated that the program will continue in the future to ensure that the U.S. has enough epidemiological investigation and health care personnel to respond in the event of an outbreak. The Minnesota Department of Health is waiting for further clarification before implementing additional programs.
7. Training is underway with managers and directors on the Minnesota Incident Management System and emergency communications. Leadership plans are being developed related to joint command with the county in the event of a public health emergency affecting Minneapolis.
8. A MDHFS Communication Plan is being developed and equipment and technology purchased using grant funds to meet the goals of the plan. Current state requirements include ensuring a 24/7 response.

Next Steps

1. Planning for the new grant year is beginning and we are waiting for guidance from the state health department before finalizing budgets and setting goals. Additional training is being provided to department staff on their potential roles in an emergency, and on the development of family emergency plans to improve personal readiness to serve.
2. The Health Annex of the City of Minneapolis Emergency Plan is being updated, while at the same time realizing that once regional and partnership planning with Hennepin County are completed additional updates will need to be made.
3. A Center for Disease Control Local Public Health Preparedness and Response Capacity Inventory is being completed, which will serve as a baseline for the current status of readiness and provide opportunities for goal setting.